

March 8, 2007

David M. Drevinsky P.E., PMP
U.S. General Services Administration
New England Region
Property Development Division (1PC)
10 Causeway Street, Room 975
Boston, Massachusetts 02222-1077

Re: Final Environmental Impact Statement Madawaska Border Station, Madawaska, Aroostook County, Maine (CEQ #20070029)

Dear Mr. Drevinsky:

The Environmental Protection Agency-New England Region (EPA) has reviewed the General Services Administration's (GSA) Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the replacement of the existing Madawaska Border Station facility. The FEIS describes the work necessary to replace the existing border station with a new facility with adequate office space and room for expansion, adequate space for primary and secondary inspection, parking and delivery, and to meet increased security needs. During our review of the FEIS we also considered information contained in the attached February 5, 2007 letter to EPA from Gannett Fleming (GSA's EIS consultant)¹. We submit the following comments on the FEIS in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA's comments on the DEIS encouraged the GSA to investigate and develop an anti-idling program at the new border station facility to reduce motor vehicle emissions of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, particulate matter, volatile organic compounds, oxides of nitrogen, and mobile source air toxics. In response, the February 5, 2007 Gannett Fleming response indicates that the GSA will investigate the "need and feasibility" of an anti-idling program during the project's final design phase. While we appreciate GSA's commitment to further consider such a program we continue to encourage the GSA to undertake this investigation prior to the close of the NEPA process so that the benefits and tradeoffs of such a program can be included in the Record of Decision. Please let us know if we can be of any assistance as you conduct the analysis of such a program. EPA's comments on the DEIS also asked GSA to commit to design the project to incorporate elements of sustainable design and to certify the proposed buildings through the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program. We applaud the GSA commitment to achieve the LEED silver certification rating for

¹ EPA wishes to correct/clarify portions of the text of the Gannett Fleming February 5, 2007 letter and February 2, 2007 Memorandum for the record. We note that our comments on the Madawaska Border Station DEIS were successfully transmitted to the GSA during the comment period on the DEIS via a fax transmission on September 21, 2006. EPA appreciates the efforts of the GSA to forward our comments after the publication of the FEIS (along with proposed responses to our comments) to those who commented on the DEIS.

the new border crossing facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FEIS for the new border station. Please contact Timothy Timmermann (617-918-1025) of EPA's Office of Environmental Review with any comments or questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

/s/

Robert W. Varney
Regional Administrator

Attachment